Amounts due Against VIPs for IAF Aircrafts

802. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian Air Force fees due from VIPs for using IAF planes for non-official and unauthorised purposes;

(b) the details of VIPs, their journeys and amounts due;

(c) what action-Civil and/or Criminal - do Government propose to take to recover these amounts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Use of IAF planes for non official purposes, on payment, by Prime Minister is permitted. A statement giving details of airlift dues from VIPs and the number of unofficial journeys undertaken is enclosed (*see* below).

(c) and (d) The matter is being pursued with the concerned political parties. Further action as per law will be taken, if required, for recovery of the dues.

Statement

Amounts due Against VIPs for IAF Aircrafts

Name of VIP	*Amount (Rs)*	*No of Journeys Undertaken*
Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi	1,86,17,820	190
Shri PV Narashimha Rao	5,52,40,647	328
Shri Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi	44,73,053	16
Smt. Shiela Kaul, Shri K.C. Pant, Congress (I) and Youth Congress (I) workers, as authorised by PMO.	Total: **7,83,30,980**	
Shri Chandra Shekhar	**5,91,31,476**	690
Shri H.D. Deve Gowda	26,48,164	120

Name of VIP	*Amount (Rs)*	*No of Journeys Undertaken*
Shri C.M. Ibrahim as authorised by the Prime Minister	28,13,333 Total: **54,61,497**	4

Replacement of INS Vikrant and INS Virat

803. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finally decided to dispose of INS Vikrant as scrap;

(b) if so, whether no proper use of the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant battle ship like training, instruction, exhibition or amusement was considered feasible or desirable; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been and are being taken to replace INS Vikrant and Virat, as they go out of service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra have evinced interest in converting INS 'Vikrant', which was decommissioned in January 1997, into a maritime museum.

(c) Necessary steps to find replacements have been taken. The construction of an Air Defence Ship has already been sanctioned.

Recruitment in Air Force

†804. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence had made announcement regarding recruitment in Air Force in the bordering district Chamoli in hilly area of U.P. in April-May 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons for not organising this recruitment drive so far; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.